W

The American Numismatic and Archæological Society of New York.

Founded 1857—Incorporated 1865.

CIRCULAR TO MEMBERS.

THE Society desiring to collect and preserve materials in order to enable the Historiographer to prepare and read before it, upon the demise of any member, a memorial of his life, these queries are forwarded to you with the earnest request that they may be answered *in extenso*, and returned without delay.

QUESTIONS.

1 What is your full name? *Answer.* Benjamin Albertson Willis

2. What were the names of your parents? *A.* Charles Willis and Abagail Albertson.

3. What were the names of your grandparents? *A.* Benjamin Albertson
Sarah Willets.
Charles Willis
Whitson

4. When and where were you born? *A.* Roslyn, town of North Hempstead County of Queens and State of New York. March 24 1840

5. If you are married, give the maiden name of your wife, and her residence, the names of her parents, the date of your marriage, and the place where you were married? *A.* Lillie Evelyn Macauley, New York City, daughter of William Macauley and Mary Underhill, a lineal descendant of Capt John Underhill, Indian Fighter. Married June 3. 1873, at Church of Heavenly Rest, (Episcopal) New York City.

6. If you have had any children, give their names in the order of their birth. *A.* Kate Selden Willis, born at Washington D C March 30, 1876.
Portia Henrietta Willis, born July 30, 1880 in New York City, No 7 West 49 St

7. If any member of your family is deceased, give the name and date of death. *A.* My age, 45 years
; Wife's age 29 "

8. State where you were brought up and educated. *A.* Long Island place of birth. Educated at [illegible] Academy, Aurora Cayuga County, and Schenectady; also Law School Poughkeepsie and Law office McLean [illegible] [illegible] Kings Co NY

9. If you were graduated by any college, give the name and class. *A.* - Union College, Schenectady, Class of 1861. NY

10. State what degrees, if any, have been conferred, and by whom. *A.* A.B. & A.M. by Union.

11. State your occupation; and if you are a member of any of the learned professions. *A.* Lawyer; practicing in this city although have tried many cases, in Washington Baltimore, Chicago and St Paul.

12. If you have held any public office, either Municipal, State or Federal, state what, when, and for how long. *A.* Member of Congress. two terms, elected in 1874 & 1876.

13. If you have been connected with any corporations, or other societies, state in what manner. *A.* Life member Metropolitan Museum of Art; Museum of Natural History, NY. Geographical Society; Medico Legal Society; Numismatic Society &c. also member of American & State Bar Associations; Law Institute; ex vestryman Heavenly Rest and Church of Holy Trinity also Councillor of [illegible] (Civics)

14. If you have written any book, pamphlet or article which has been printed, state when and where published, and give titles in full, and please furnish copies to the Library of the Society. *A.* Variety of speeches in Congress; Lectures; Newspaper articles &c which I cannot enumerate; on Politics Finance, Social Problems &c

Manager NY Infant Asylum &
Trustee of Women's Christian Temperance [illegible]

15. If any biographical sketch of you or history of your family has been printed, please refer to it? *A.* Congressional Directory & Biographical Encyclopedia; several newspapers also Cyclopedia of Contemporary Biography of New York Vol II

16. Give in detail any incidents which have gone to make up the history of your life; acquaintance with distinguished men, etc.; in fact, everything that should be presented in a memorial of your life. *A.* I have general acquaintance with public men in official life during last two decades; also many eminent clergymen & scientists, also College Presidents & Political Economists; Brazilian Emperor; Nicaragua Ministers &c. Have been in Army, was Capt, Major & Colonel Commanding 119 N.Y. Regt, was at Fredericksburgh, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Wauhatchie & other engagements of minor note; & served under Grant, Sherman, McClellan, Meade, Thomas, Howard &c.

17. If any of your ancestors or descendants have held important positions of honor or trust, please give details. *A.* My ancestors have all been respectable & well to do members of Society of Friends, and have held many positions of private and public trust.

18. If you can give the name of the first ancestor of the family in this country, please do so. *A.* Descended from Willis of Wiltshire, Thomas Willis being the most eminent physician of his time England — first ancestor in America, Henry Willis born Sept 14 1628, Emigrated to America, 1675 — purchased a piece of land in North Hempstead Queens Co., naming the place Westbury after a town in his native county — he died July 11, 1714 — complete Biographical Sketches The N.Y. Genealogical & Biographical Record, published

NOTE.—Please also send to the Society, for its Album, a photographic likeness of yourself, with your autograph beneath it, if you have not already done so; and donations of anything you may have written will be particularly acceptable, as well as contributions germane to its Library and Cabinets.

Quarterly in October 1884, by the Society at Mott Memorial Hall 64 Madison Av — I belong to the 10 Generation — My Mother's family descending from Derick Albertson Hollander who settled about 1660 in Glen Cove, Queens Co, L.I.

Benj. A. Willis

HISTORIOGRAPHER,

American Numismatic and Archæological Society.

ROOM 25, N. Y. UNIVERSITY BUILDING, WASHINGTON SQUARE, NEW YORK CITY.

Do not indulge in tobacco or alcoholic beverages

Willis ✓

Benjamin Albertson Willis
Biographical Sketch

Num^c. & Arch^l. Soc

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, OCT. 16, 1886.

BENJAMIN A. WILLIS.

Ex-Congressman Benjamin A. Willis, of the old Eleventh District, died yesterday afternoon at his residence, No. 205 West Fifty-seventh-street, after an illness of six weeks, of Bright's disease. He was born of Quaker parentage at Roslyn, N. Y., on March 24, 1840. He received his education at Union College, Schenectady, whence he was graduated in 1861. He studied law at the National Law School at Poughkeepsie and with William M. Ingraham, of Brooklyn, and was admitted to the Bar in the same year that he left college. He began practice at once, but continued in it only a short time. In 1862 he gave up his profession to go to the front in the war of the rebellion. He raised a company at his own expense and entered the army as its Captain. The company was assigned to the One Hundred and Nineteenth New-York State Volunteers. He participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, Wauhatchie, and Chattanooga. He was twice promoted, being first made Major of the regiment which he entered as Captain, and afterward becoming Colonel of the Twelfth New-York State Volunteers. In 1864 he was honorably discharged and returned to this city, where he resumed the practice of law. He became active in politics as a reform Democrat, being especially vigorous in his opposition to Tammany Hall. He was elected a Representative in the Forty-fourth Congress. In 1872 he ran again, against Levi P. Morton, whom he defeated by a vote of 12,519 to 12,092. In 1874 he was elected over Isaac H. Bailey. His service as a Congressman ceased eight years ago.

Benjamin A Willis Rev.

Obituary

October 16" 1886